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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 009294

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TAGS: [AEMR](#) [AMED](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [EG](#) [KFLO](#) [PTER](#) [EAC](#)

SUBJECT: CAIRO EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING 12/13/05

REF: A. SECSTATE 223695

[B](#). CAIRO 08947

[C](#). CAIRO 08073

[D](#). SECSTATE 219189

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires a.i. Stuart E. Jones for reasons 1.4 (d) and (g)

[1](#)1. (SBU) SUMMARY: On December 13, 2005, DCM convened a meeting of the full EAC to discuss the worldwide public announcement issued by the Department of State (Ref A), the current threat situation in Egypt (Ref B), Post tripwires regarding Avian Influenza (AI), the ongoing Emergency Action Plan (EAP) update and the issuance of security policies for travel at night and the Post firearm policy. Representatives from RSO, CONS, ECPO, MGT, RMO, IMO, LOC, LEGATT, ORA, OMC, DAO, NAMRU, USAID, CLO, FAS, PA and FCS attended.

[1](#)2. (S/NF) The DCM opened the meeting by drawing attention to the worldwide caution that was issued by the Department of State (Ref A) and eliciting comments. While the caution highlighted threat to U.S. citizens and interest overseas, RSO drew attention to the fact that the Middle East was named as one of the regions being targeted by Al Qa'ida. RSO stated that no specific or credible information on Egypt targeting is known at this time. SIMO concurred that the current threat reporting in Egypt is of a general nature, adding that the Government of Egypt (GOE) is fully aware of threat information and proactively attempting to counteract terrorist elements in the country. SIMO stated that as discussed in the last core EAC, the situation in the Sinai is stable despite the general threats to Hurghada and that since the attacks in Sharm el Sheikh the GOE has increased visibility, successfully dealt with subversive groups and reinforced security forces in heavily visited tourist areas. SIMO reports no credible evidence to support the vague warnings reported in Israeli media advising Israelis not to visit the Sinai, but also report the GOE is aware and their proactive measures are sufficient for the resort areas in the Sinai. OMC stated the USDR, in collaboration with relevant Embassy offices, has reevaluated its threat level in Egypt and has down graded from force protection level Charlie to Bravo with select Charlie measures in place. Both RSO and SIMO agreed that the current posture of the Mission and the Egyptian Government is appropriate for the known threat level and that both are prepared to intensify measures should that become necessary. CONS is retransmitting the Worldwide Public Announcement through the Egypt warden system.

[1](#)3. (C) The DCM noted that the Public Announcement for Egypt had expired per the EAC recommendation (Ref C). CONS stated that guidance contained in the Consular Information Sheet (CIS) is appropriate and constantly updated to reflect the situation in Egypt. ECPO highlighted that, despite the end of elections, opposition groups were being allowed to protest by the GOE. ECPO cited a demonstration of approximately 600 that occurred December 12, 2005, stating that while it is encouraging to see the GOE permitting democratic protest, protests still have the potential to disrupt traffic and/or turn violent. RSO stressed that any information received from the GOE regarding demonstrations would be passed on to the Mission community so that such demonstration could be voided.

[1](#)4. (SBU) Closing the discussion on the threat situation, the DCM addressed the Post preparations for the possible Avian Influenza outbreak (Ref D). RMO disseminated a draft list of tripwires the Avian Influenza Working Group had prepared, noting that Post's current position was at tripwire zero which encourages Mission personnel to have a seven day supply of food, water, and medicine on hand. RMO stated that should cases of the AI be found in surrounding countries the EAC should revisit the actions Post should take. The DCM stated that the AI tripwires would be a living document continually modified by Post and that all section heads should stress to their personnel the general tenets of emergency preparation overseas not just in relation to AI.

[1](#)5. (C) As the final agenda topic the RSO distributed two updated security notices. The updated Mission's Firearms Policy was distributed. The DCM emphasized responsibility associated with carrying a firearm, for sport or official

use, and that the misuse of a firearm is grounds for removal from Post. The general safety hazards associated with traveling after dark in Egypt has led the EAC to re-address night time travel outside of greater Cairo. RSO stressed that night time travel outside of the greater Cairo area, as delineated in the security notice, is prohibited due to the dangerous road conditions and hazards presented by other drivers. Several members of the EAC raised the concern that at times there is an operational need to travel outside of greater Cairo during hour of darkness. The DCM stated that such instances could be coordinated with RSO as they arose, with mission criticality and common sense the key to approval. The DCM again stressed that section heads are responsible for ensuring that their personnel understand and comply with all mission policies and encouraged everyone to set aside a few minutes at their next staff meeting to review with their personnel the two updated policies.

16. (SBU) The DCM noted that the holiday travel season is upon us and as such so is the need to ensure that those traveling during the holidays leave behind contact information. Each Section is responsible for knowing where their personnel are during the holiday and more importantly how to contact them should the need arise. The DCM encouraged section heads to lead by example by leaving contact information with the front office if they were traveling. On a final note, the DCM reminded the EAC that the requested updates to the EAP are due by the end of the week to RSO. Once updated, the EAC will have the opportunity to review the updated EAP prior to the upcoming Crisis Management Exercise in 2/06.

JONES